

REMARKS

Claims 1, 39, 59, 78, 103, and 114 are amended, claims 2-23, 27-38, 40-58, 62-77, 79-100, 104-113, 115-132, 136-147 are canceled, and claims 148-158 are added. After entry of these amendments, claims 1, 24-26, 39, 59-61, 78, 101-103, 114, 133-135, and 148-158 will be pending.

Response to Rejection of Claims 1, 78, and 114

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 24-26, 39, 59-61, 74, 78, 101-103, 114, 133-135 and 144 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Hunt (US Patent 5,764,235).

Claim 1, as amended, recites a system for allocating bandwidth on a network comprising:

one or more network nodes wherein said one or more network nodes further comprises a first processing element, a compression module, a first local network interface, and a first bandwidth adjustment module, wherein said compression module further comprises a plurality of compression parameters and said first processing element controls said bandwidth adjustment module, said first local network interface, and said compression module;

a data interface connected to said one or more network nodes;

a master node wherein said master node further comprises a second processing element, a second local network interface, and a second bandwidth adjustment module, and wherein said second processing element controls said second network interface and said second bandwidth adjustment module;

wherein said one or more network nodes and said master node communicate using said first local network interface and said second network interface, wherein said first local network interface and said second local network interface communicate over a local network having **changing network conditions**; and

wherein said second bandwidth adjustment module dynamically changes at least one of said compression parameters in said first bandwidth adjustment module based on **changing network conditions** on the local network, wherein said **changing network conditions** are detected by said second local network interface, and wherein said **changing network conditions affect network bandwidth**.

Claim 1 now recites one or more network nodes with a first processing element, a first compression module, a first local network interface, and a first bandwidth adjustment module. The system also includes a master node with a second processing element, a second local network interface, and a second bandwidth adjustment module. The network nodes and the master node communicate using the network interfaces and communicate over a local network having **changing network conditions**. The second bandwidth adjustment module dynamically changes at least one of said compression parameters in said first bandwidth adjustment module based on **changing network conditions on the network**, wherein the **changing network conditions affect network bandwidth**. Claims 78 and 114 recite some similar elements to those recited in claim 1.

The Hunt reference fails to show the second bandwidth adjustment module dynamically changes at least one of said compression parameters in said first bandwidth adjustment module based on **changing network conditions on the local network**, wherein the **changing network conditions affect network bandwidth**. Hunt generally discusses a method and system for transmitting graphical images from a server to a client at user selectable resolution. (Abstract). At best, Hunt discusses a network in which the server transmits images to the client using an image customization process. (col. 5, lines 16-20).

The Examiner frequently referred to column 5, lines 5-32 of Hunt in the rejection of the claims prior to amendment. However, this section of Hunt discusses determining whether the client and server both support image customization. If image customization is supported, Hunt discusses using “server image control data 116 and/or the client image control data 120 so that the customization is intelligently performed.” The client or server control data is “information obtained from the client [or server] that is useful in determining

both the suitable amount of data and/or format for the graphical image files to be sent.”

However, Hunt does not discuss dynamically changing at least one of said compression parameters in said first bandwidth adjustment module based on **changing network conditions on the network**, wherein the **changing network conditions affect network bandwidth**. Hunt does not discuss using changing network conditions that affect network bandwidth in determining the image customization process.

Claims 24-26, 153 and 156 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1, claims 101-103, 154 and 157 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 78, claims 133-135, 155 and 158 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 114. These dependent claims are patentable at least for incorporating the features of their base claims and contain additional limitations that are patentable over the cited art.

For example, claim 153 recites the system of claim 1, wherein the network is a power line network. Hunt does not mention the word “power line” anywhere in its patent. A power line network is an example of a network with changing network conditions that affect network bandwidth. As discussed previously, Hunt does not mention changing at least one compression parameter based on changing network conditions on the network that affect network bandwidth.

Furthermore, claim 156 recites the system of claim 153, wherein one of the network conditions used by the second bandwidth adjustment module in changing the compression parameters comprises **noise on the network from one or more devices connected to the power line network**. Hunt does not discuss changing compression parameters based on noise on the network from one or more devices connected to the power line network.

For these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent claims 1, 78 and 114, and the claims that depend directly or indirectly from them, be withdrawn.

Response to Rejection of Claim 39

Claim 39, as amended, recites a system for allocating bandwidth on a network comprising:

a first network node wherein said first network node further comprises a first processing element, a first bandwidth adjustment module, a first local network interface, and a compression module wherein said compression module contains a plurality of compression parameters and wherein said first processing element controls said first bandwidth adjustment module, said first local network interface, and said compression module;

a data interface connected to said first network node;

a second network node **configurable as a master node, a slave master node, and a network node**, wherein said second network node further comprises a second processing element, a second bandwidth adjustment module, a second local network interface, and wherein said second processing element controls said second local network interface and said second bandwidth adjustment module;

a third network node, wherein said third network node further comprises a third processing element, a third bandwidth adjustment module, a third local network interface, a third compression module wherein said third compression module contains a plurality of compression parameters, and wherein said third processing element controls said third bandwidth adjustment module, said third local network interface and said third compression module;

wherein said first network node, said second network node and said third network node electronically communicate using said first local network interface, said second local network interface node and said third local network interact; and

wherein said second bandwidth adjustment module dynamically **changes at least one of said compression parameters in said first bandwidth adjustment module or said third bandwidth adjustment module** based on network conditions on the local network wherein said network conditions are detected by said second local network interface.

Thus, claim 39 describes a system with a first, second and third network node; the second network node is configurable as a master node, a slave node, and a network node. The network nodes also include local network interfaces and bandwidth adjustment modules. The network nodes electronically communicate using their respective local network interfaces. The second local network interface detects the network conditions, and the second bandwidth adjustment module dynamically changes at least one compression parameter in the first or third bandwidth adjustment modules based on the conditions detected by the second local network interface.

Hunt does not address the situation of allocating bandwidth on a network with multiple network nodes. Moreover, Hunt does not discuss a network node configurable as a master node, a slave node, and a network node. Hunt provides no disclosure that its client and/or server are configurable as a master node, slave node, and network node. Rather, Hunt addresses the situation where the server uses the image customization process on the files to be transmitted to the client: “the server 102 is able to use the image customization process 114 on the image files to be transmitted to the client 104.” (col. 5, lines 16-20).

Claims 59-61 and 148-152 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 39. These dependent claims are patentable at least for incorporating the features of their base claims and recite additional elements not present in Hunt.

For example, in claim 150, the local device identifier prohibits the second node from operating as a master node, wherein the second network node responds by operating as a network node. Hunt does not mention any such local device identifier or a network node configuring as a network node rather than a master node, responsive to the local device identifier prohibiting the second node from operating as a master node.

For these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent claim 39, and the claims that depend directly or indirectly from it, be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are allowable over the cited art of record and request that the Examiner allow this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully Submitted,
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